

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04  
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01  
/106 W

-----271410Z 130764 /44

R 271039Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7584  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 34588

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, ASEAN, TH  
SUBJECT: MTN TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTIATIONS

REF.: (A) JAKARTA 16383, (B) GENEVA 9226

1. AT REQUEST OF MOFA CHARGE CALLED ON NITSAI WETCHACHIWA,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION AND ASEAN DIVISIONS, MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MORNING OF DECEMBER 27. NITSAI HANDED CHARGE  
AIDE-MEMOIRE RELATING TO SUBJECT NEGOTIATIONS. AS THAI TEXT  
DIFFERS TO SOME EXTENT FROM JOINT MEMORANDUM TRANSMITTED REFTEL  
AIDEMEMOIRE IS QUOTED BELOW IN ITS ENTIRETY.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. 1. WITH REFERENCE TO THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS  
ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS,  
AND IN PURSUANCE OF THE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP AND RECORD OF DE-  
CISIONS AT THE TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP MEETING AT GENEVA, ON  
18-20 OCTOBER 1976, THAILAND, TOGETHER WITH OTHER ASEAN COUN-  
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TRIES, MAKE THIS SUBMISSION WITH A VIEW TO THE IMPROVEMENT AND  
EARLY IMPLEMENTATION BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF ITS  
OFFER IN RESPONSE TO ASEAN REQUESTS. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ALSO  
WISH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE COMMITMENTS UNDERTAKEN BY DEVEL-  
OPED COUNTRIES IN PART IV OF THE GATT WE WELL AS THE TOKYO DE-  
CLARATION. THEY WOULD ALSO RECALL THAT AS EARLY AS 1963 THE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ENDORSED THE OBJECTIVE OF DUTY-FREE ENTRY FOR TROPICAL PRODUCTS.

2. THE ASEAN MEMBERS CONSIDER THE UNITED STATES A LEADING PARTICIPANT IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVING BEEN INITIATED BY THE JOINT UNITED STATES-JAPAN STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN FEBRUARY 1972, AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION THE MEASURES THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH ASEAN, INCLUDING ITS POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ASEAN REQUEST LIST ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD WISH TO POINT OUT THAT THE RESPONSE FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE FORM OF OFFERS ON TROPICAL PRODUCTS WAS ONLY WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$104 MILLION, BASED ON UNITED STATES IMPORTS IN 1973, AS COMPARED TO THE TOTAL ASEAN REQUEST OF \$528 MILLION FOR THE SAME YEAR. FURTHERMORE, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES NOTE THAT IN MANY INSTANCES THE DEPTH OF TARIFF CUT IN THE UNITED STATES OFFER HAS BEEN RESTRICTED BY THE NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY OPERATING.

3. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT REQUESTS FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES FOR A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT EXPORTS WHICH INCLUDES INTER ALIA SUGAR, TOBACCO, CANNED PINEAPPLE JUICE, TIMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS, TUNA, ABACA PRODUCTS, NATURAL RUBBER AND RUBBER PRODUCTS, PRAWNS, SPICES, LEATHER PRODUCTS, FOOTWEAR, TEXTILES AND ELECTRONICS TO THE UNITED STATES HAD NOT BEEN ACCORDED ANY OFFER. THE ASEAN COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS WHICH PREVENT THE UNITED STATES FROM INCLUDING THESE

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ITEMS IN ITS OFFER LIST AND HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO IMPROVING ITS INITIAL OFFER.

4. ADDITIONALLY, THAILAND WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT EXISTING PREFERENTIAL TARIFF MARGINS UNDER GSP SHOULD BE BOUND AND THAT IN CASE OF EROSION OF PREFERENTIAL MARGINS, RESULTING FROM THE MFN CUTS, EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION SHOULD BE MADE.

5. AS AN IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER OF THE UNITED STATES, THE ASEAN COUNTRIES ARE A SUBSTANTIAL MARKET FOR UNITED STATES EXPORTS WHICH AMOUNTED TO \$4.4 BILLION IN 1974. HOWEVER, EXPORTS BY ASEAN COUNTRIES TO THE UNITED STATES AMOUNTED TO ONLY \$3.4 BILLION IN THE SAME YEAR.

6. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WOULD URGE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT ITS INITIAL OFFER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND TO SUPPLEMENT THAT OFFER

BY IMPROVING THE SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE CONCESSIONS IN THE  
TROPICAL PRODUCTS GROUP TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DEVELOPMENT  
NEEDS OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT. WORTH OF USG OFFER CITED AS \$104 MILLION IN PARA  
TWO OF THAI TEXT IS \$190 MILLION IN INDONESIAN MEMORANDUM. RTG  
AIDE-MEMOIRE ALSO INCLUDES A NEW CONDITION IN PARA 4 CON-  
CERNING COMPENSATION SHOULD EROSION OF PREFERENTIAL TARIFF  
MARGINS OCCUR.  
BURKE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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